

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for allowing a user of a user terminal to receive credit financing opportunities, the method comprising.

receiving credit data from the user terminal, the credit data including a user objective and a credit profile;

determining credit financing opportunities based on the credit data and at least one predetermined decision rule;

generating an output, the output including a comparison of at least part of the credit profile with the determined credit financing opportunities; and providing the output to the user terminal.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further including receiving a request from the user terminal to apply for a determined credit opportunity.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the credit profile is comprised of at least one user credit data element, the at least one user credit data element identifying one or more characteristics of corresponding financing previously undertaken by the user.

4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein generating the output includes generating a first level output and generating a second level output.

5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the first level output includes one or more comparisons of a determined credit opportunity with a respective one of the at least one user credit data elements.

6. The method according to Claim 4, wherein there are a plurality of credit data elements and the second output includes one or more comparisons of a determined credit opportunity with the plurality of user credit data elements.

7. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising providing a summary of the user profile data to the user terminal.

8. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the at least one user credit data element includes an interest rate, an outstanding balance and a monthly payment.

9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein the at least one user credit data element further includes an identification of whether the corresponding credit data element was issued by a provider of the financing opportunities.

10. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the at least one user credit data element corresponds to at least one of a credit card, a vehicle loan, a secured debt, an unsecured debt, a home equity loan and a

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12. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the user data further includes personal data corresponding to the user and further including the act of obtaining a credit worthiness report based on the personal data.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein determining credit financing opportunities includes consideration of the credit worthiness of the corresponding user.

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16. The method according to Claim 1, further including receiving a request for detailed information corresponding to a selected one of the financing opportunities and wherein at least a part of the output is provided in a substantially pictorial form.

17. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the pictorial form includes at least one of a graph and a pie chart.

18. The method according to Claim 15, wherein the predetermined decision rules further consider the user's taxation rate in determining viable credit opportunities.

19. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising preparing a list of potential financing opportunities at least partially based on opportunity data received from at least one product processor, and wherein the determined financing opportunities are selected from the prepared list.

20. A computer readable storage medium storing computer executable instructions which, when executed, perform a method for allowing a user of a user terminal to receive credit financing opportunities, the method comprising:

receiving credit data from the user terminal, the credit data including a user objective and a credit profile;

10 determining credit financing opportunities based on
the credit data and at least one predetermined decision
rule;

generating an output, the output including a
comparison of at least part of the credit profile with
the determined credit financing opportunities; and
15 providing the output to the user terminal.

21. The computer readable storage medium according
to Claim 20, wherein the method further includes
receiving a request from the user terminal to apply for a
determined credit opportunity.

22. The computer readable storing medium according
to Claim 20, wherein the credit profile is comprised of
at least one user credit data element, the at least one
user credit data element identifying one or more
5 characteristics of corresponding financing previously
undertaken by the user.

23. The method according to Claim 22, wherein
generating the output includes generating a first level
output and generating a second level output.

24. The computer readable storage medium according
to Claim 23, wherein the first level output includes one
or more comparisons of a determined credit opportunity
with a respective one of the at least one user credit
5 data elements.

5 25. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 23, wherein there are a plurality of credit data elements and the second output includes one or more comparisons of a determined credit opportunity with the plurality of user credit data elements.

26. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 20, wherein the method further includes providing a summary of the user profile data to the user terminal.

27. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 22, wherein the at least one user credit data element includes an interest rate, an outstanding balance and a monthly payment.

5 28. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 27, wherein the at least one user credit data element further includes an identification of whether the corresponding credit data element was issued by a provider of the financing opportunities.

5 29. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 22, wherein the at least one user credit data element corresponds to at least one of a credit card, a vehicle loan, a secured debt, an unsecured debt, a home equity loan and a residential mortgage.

30. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 26, wherein the summary includes at least one summary area corresponding to one of the user's credit cards, personal lines of credit, personal loans, home equity lines of credit, auto loans, unsecured credit and total outstanding credit.

31. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 20, wherein the user data further includes personal data corresponding to the user and the method further includes the act of obtaining a credit worthiness report based on the personal data.

32. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 31, wherein determining credit financing opportunities includes consideration of the credit worthiness of the corresponding user.

33. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 20, wherein the credit opportunity is considered viable if it is determined that the user will save at least a predetermined amount of money during a predetermined time period.

34. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 20, wherein the user profile data includes a state of residence and wherein the predetermined decision rules include consideration of the state of residence and current interest rates for potential financing

opportunities.

5 35. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 20, wherein the method further includes accepting a request for detailed information corresponding to a selected one of the financing opportunities and wherein at least a part of the output is provided in a substantially pictorial form.

36. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 35, wherein the pictorial form includes at least one of a graph and a pie chart.

37. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 34, wherein the predetermined decision rules further consider the user's taxation rate in determining the viable credit opportunities.

5 38. The computer readable storage medium according to Claim 20, wherein the method further includes preparing a list of potential financing opportunities at least partially based on opportunity data received from at least one product processor, and wherein the determined financing opportunities are selected from the prepared list.

39. An information processor in a financial processing system, the information processor coupled to at least one user terminal via a communication network,

the information processor comprising:

- 5 a memory storing at least one decision rule;
 a network interface coupling the information
processor to the communication network; and
 a central processing unit performing the functions
of:

10 receiving, via the network interface, credit
data from the user terminal, the credit data including a
user objective and a credit profile;

 determining credit financing opportunities, the
determination being based on the credit data and at least
15 one predetermined decision rule;

 generating an output, the output including a
comparison of at least part of the credit profile with
the determined credit financing opportunities; and
 providing the output to the user terminal.

40. The information processor according to Claim
39, further comprising a database coupled to the central
processing unit, the database storing data corresponding
to at least one financing opportunity.

41. The information processor according to Claim
39, wherein the central processing unit further performs
the function of receiving a request from the user
terminal to apply for a determined credit opportunity.

42. The information processor according to Claim 39, wherein the credit profile is comprised of at least one user credit data element, the at least one user credit data element identifying one or more characteristics of corresponding financing previously undertaken by the user.

43. The information processor according to Claim 42, wherein the output is comprised of a first level output and a second level output.

44. The information processor according to Claim 43, wherein the first level output includes one or more comparisons of a determined credit opportunity with a respective one of the at least one user credit data elements.

45. The information processor according to Claim 43, wherein there are a plurality of credit data elements and the second output includes one or more comparisons of a determined credit opportunity with the plurality of user credit data elements.

46. The information processor according to Claim 39, wherein the central processing unit further performs the function of providing a summary of the user profile data to the user terminal.

47. The information processor according to Claim 42, wherein the at least one user credit data element includes an interest rate, an outstanding balance and a monthly payment.

48. The information processor according to Claim 47, wherein the at least one user credit data element further includes an identification of whether the corresponding credit data element was issued by a provider of the financing opportunities.

49. The information processor according to Claim 42, wherein the at least one user credit data element corresponds to at least one of a credit card, a vehicle loan, a secured debt, an unsecured debt, a home equity loan and a residential mortgage.

50. The information processor according to Claim 46, wherein the summary includes at least one summary area corresponding to one of the user's credit cards, personal lines of credit, personal loans, home equity lines of credit, auto loans, unsecured credit and total outstanding credit.

51. The information processor according to Claim 39, wherein the user data further includes personal data corresponding to the user and the central processing unit further performs the function of obtaining a credit worthiness report based on the personal data.

52. The information processor according to Claim 51, wherein the determining function includes consideration of the credit worthiness of the corresponding user.

53. The information processor according to Claim 39, wherein the central processing unit considers a credit opportunity to be viable if the determining function determines that the user will save at least a predetermined amount of money during a predetermined time period.

54. The information processor according to Claim 39, wherein the user profile data includes a state of residence and wherein the predetermined decision rules include consideration of the state of residence and current interest rates for potential financing opportunities.

55. The information processor according to Claim 39, wherein the central processing unit further performs the function of accepting a request for detailed information corresponding to a selected one of the financing opportunities and wherein at least a part of the output is provided in a substantially pictorial form.

56. The information processor according to Claim 55, wherein the pictorial form includes at least one of a graph and a pie chart.

57. The information processor according to Claim 54, wherein the predetermined decision rules further consider the user's taxation rate in determining viable credit opportunities.

58. A method for allowing a user of a user terminal to apply for a credit financing opportunity via a communication network, the method comprising:

5 receiving a user objective from the user terminal, the user objective indicating that the user wishes to obtain credit;

providing a list of potential financing products to the user terminal;

10 receiving a request from the user terminal for information corresponding to a selected one of the potential financing products;

providing the information to the user terminal; and

15 receiving a request from the user terminal to initiate an application for the selected financing product.

59. The method according to Claim 58, wherein the list of potential financing products includes:

vehicle loans;

education loans;

5 home improvement loans;

home purchase loans;

medical expense loans;

large event loans; and

vacation loans.

60. A method for allowing a user of a terminal to receive optimized information regarding a selected topic, the method comprising:

5 receiving input data from the user terminal, the
input data including a user objective;
querying a knowledge base regarding the input data;
retrieving operational data from the knowledge base;
determining optimized information based on the
10 results of applying at least one predetermined decision
rule to the operational data and user objective;
generating an output; and
providing the output to the terminal. ✓

61. The method of claim 60, wherein the knowledge base is connected to an electronic network.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein the output includes links to at least one other electronic site.

63. The method of claim 61, further comprising the steps of:

5 querying at least one search engine concerning the
input data; and
processing the results of the querying of at least
one search engine.

64. The method of claim 60, wherein the output includes an optimized list.

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